(b) if so, what reasons are attributed for such a huge loss;

(c) what is the overall impact on the Coal India's losses and profits; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to remove the impediments and to make the Dankuni Coal Complex economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Dankuni Coal Complex (DCC), a Low Temperature Carbonisation (LTC) plant at Dankuni, West Bengal is presently under South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL) is expected to suffer a loss of Rs. 31.26 crores (Provisional) during 1997-98. However, firm figures shall be known only after the annual account for the year is finalised and audited.

The installed capacity of the plant was largely unutilised mainly on account of Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation (GCGSC) a linked consumer under Government of West Bengal, failing to take the committed quantity of gas. Another issue badly affecting the financial position of the plant is unwillingness of GCGSC to pay the remunerative price for the gas. GCGSC is paying presently @Rs. 9.50 per therm as against @Rs. 16.0 paid by M/s Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur.

(c) the loss incurred by DCC, a unit of SECL. During 1996-97, will have no impact on the profits of SECL. SECL will have a profit of Rs. 564.54 crores (provisional) during 1996-97.

(d) The following measures are being taken to improve the economic viability of DCC:—

(i) Dialogue with the Govt. of West Bengal to improve the off take of gas to GCGSC for improved capacity utilisation of the plant as well as to pursuade the GCGSC to pay remunerative price of gas.

(ii) To produce value added chemicals like chloroxycenol, chlorophenol, etc.

Suspension of official of CCL's colliery at Dhuri

1244. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some officials including one General Manager posted in C.C.L's Colliery in Dhuri were suspended recently in connection with some illegal appointments;

(b) whether any enquiry was made in this regards before suspending them;

(c) the findings of the enquiry;

(d) whether the relations of some employees were also found appointed; and

(e) if so, what are the full details of the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) No official posted in Dhori Colliery of CCL has been suspended recently in connection with any illegal appointment. But, one general Manager and one Upper Division Clerk, both posted in CCL Headquarters in Ranchi have been suspended for their alleged involvement in irregular appointments detected after an investigation conducted by the Vigilance Department of CCL.

(c) to (e) The investigation revealed that 24 persons were irregularly appointed in 1995-96 on the basis of bogus certification regarding acquisition of their land for coal mining purposes. The investigation also revealed that one of the 24 persons irrigularly appointed is the son of suspended General Manager and another is the son of the suspended Upper Division Clerk.